



Australia Awards

**Australia Awards
Fellowships Round 20
Industry Briefing
Question & Answers**



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Industry Briefing Question & Answers

1. Question:

Is there a recording of the Industry Briefing?

Answer:

No, the Industry Briefing was not recorded.

Please refer to the [Australia Awards Fellowship website](#) for a copy of the presentation, and further details on how to apply.

Application Related Questions

2. Question:

In the application form we are asked to advise if we have received any other funding from the Commonwealth of Australia.

Do we have to list all funding we have received, or only funding that relates to the program area we are applying for?

Answer:

Please only list Commonwealth funding that relates to the program area you are applying for. Please note, however, that any and **all** funding provided by **Department Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)** for the last five years must be listed.

3. Question:

Do you have any guidance on who would be an appropriate referee for this application?

Answer:

An organisation or an individual who has or is currently working (but is not an employee) of the Australian organisation (applicant).

4. Question:

What information would DFAT be seeking from a referee?

Answer

Referee will be asked to provide details of the nature of their working relationship with the Australian organisation (applicant) and information regarding the applicant's performance. See DFAT's Due Diligence Framework [Due Diligence Framework | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#) for further information.

5. Question:

Can we nominate a DFAT representative from an Australian mission overseas as referee?

Answer:

No. This will result in a conflict of interest for the DFAT representative.

6. Question:

Is a Letter of Support required from the Overseas Counterpart Organisations (OCO) to confirm that they have agreed to participate in the Fellowships?

Answer:

No. From Round 20, we have removed the need for a formal Letter of Support from the OCO(s). However, in the application the Australian organisation (applicant) is asked to declare that in-principal agreement with the OCO(s) has been attained.

7. Question:

When can an Australian organisation apply for a Fellowship grant?

Answer:

Applications for Round 20 opened on 2 September 2024, and will close on 13 October 2024, 11:59pm (AEDT).

8. Question:

In the application, there is only space to enter one partner country. We would like to add additional partner countries that would benefit from this Fellowship. Is this possible?

If yes, where can I add the information about our second partner country? And will the additional travel costs for the Fellows and trainers be covered?

Answer:

Yes. It is possible to have more than one Partner Country.

In adding additional Partner Countries, you must however also identify the OCO(s) you will partner with i.e. there must be one OCO for each of the countries you partner with: 5 countries= 5 OCO's. 1 country = 1 OCO, etc.

To add additional OCO's to your application, in the section titled: *Overseas Counterpart Organisation(s) (OCO) Details*, there is an Add More tab after the declaration. Please click there and you will be able to add details of the other Partner Countries and individual nominated OCO's.

Remember you must include the number of Fellows from each partner country and not group them together. You can click Add More in the section titled *Proposed Number of Fellows*. This will provide you additional rows for each countries.

9. Question:

For the minimum 14-day period that is required for the activity that is to be held in Australia, does this include weekends? Or does the Australian program need to be held for a minimum of 14 business days?

Answer:

Australian program activities need to be held for a minimum of 14 calendar days (which can include weekends and public holidays).

10. Question:

The program starts in October 2025 and must end by March 2027. Is there any restriction on when programs must have commenced by?

For example, could a program commence mid-2026 and be completed within that same year.

Answer:

There is flexibility with the start date as long as the program commences after 1 October 2025 and ends by 29 March 2027. Program duration can be anywhere between 2 to 52 weeks.

11. Question:

We hosted the Australia Awards Fellowships (AAF) before. Do we have to list all the previous applications in SmartyGrants for R20 application?

Answer:

Yes. Applicants are required to list previously awarded AAF grants.

12. Question:

While the Application does not require us to nominate the Fellows at this stage, we are required to indicate level of disability funding required including for any carers. Should we assume that we need to know the Fellows we might nominate in the second stage, so that we can add support needs?

Answer:

We encourage applicants to identify potential Fellow(s) with a disability for inclusion in your program, and to include a disability support estimate in your bid. If successful, during Stage Two, we will give you an opportunity to review your disability support estimate against the known costs and will work with you to vary your grant to ensure all eligible costs are covered (subject to budget availability).

13. Question:

I noticed that there are no templates for the Activity and Budget tables available on the SmartyGrants website. Could you let me know if there are existing templates that we should use, or if we are expected to create our own?

Answer:

To reduce your administrative burden, we have removed the need for detailed activity and budget tables. Please follow the steps in SmartyGrants and only enter the information requested.

14. Question:

How can I provide the gendered data about proposed Fellows if the Fellows are not yet known?

Answer:

Although we do not require a list of the Nominated Fellows at this stage, we encourage you give early consideration to the gender balance you wish to achieve in your program activities.

15. Question:

Is it the researcher from an Australian Host Organisation (AHO) that submits an application through SmartyGrants or should it be the research office that does the submission?

Answer:

An authorised employee of an Australian organisation must submit the application. However, the application must be approved by the appropriate Delegate before submission.

Priority Area Related Questions

16. Question:

Do any of the priority areas have a regional focus?

Answer:

No. The application is required to align with one of the priority areas and eligible country(ies). See Section 3.5 (Priority areas) and 3.4(Eligible Countries) in the [Round 20 Guidelines](#).

17. Question:

Can you please elaborate on Digital Storytelling (one of the areas listed in the Digital Economy, Cyber Resilience and Media Engagement Priority) and the government's focus?

Answer:

Digital transformation, social media, AI and increased connectivity have changed the way in which information is disseminated and consumed. This not only presents challenges for media organisations, but also opportunities for media to engage audiences through various platforms. Digital storytelling, including the use of text, images, video, audio, and other multimedia features, presents an opportunity for media to create and share more stories in the public interest, elevate diverse voices and perspectives, and engage a wider audience. Applications that support the ability for media organisations to adopt digital storytelling approaches would be welcomed.

AHO and Fellow Eligibility

18. Question:

In case of a higher education provider, must the university already be part of Australia Awards?

Answer:

No. The Australia Awards Fellowships are open to any Australian Organisation that holds a current ABN. Refer to eligibility of applicants under Section 3.1 of the [Round 20 Guidelines](#).

19. Question:

How can an Australian organisation demonstrate it can effectively manage contractual and other program requirements?

Answer:

The Australian organisation must demonstrate compliance with the contractual terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and effective financial management i.e. the Australian organisation may show it uses a Financial Management Information System for tracking and monitoring budget and expenditure and can fully acquit/ provide evidence of grant expenditure against the DFAT approved costs.

Budget/Funding Questions

20. Question:

AHO is looking to deliver a program where delegates will visit two cities in Australia. Can the university use funds from the grant to pay for the program leader's flights/accommodation to escort the group and lead the program of events?

Answer:

AHO staff travel and accommodation within Australia costs are ineligible for DFAT funding (Section 5.8 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)).

21. Question:

Is it a reasonable expense to deliver pre and post-workshops in country/in person, or is the preference for this to be virtual/delivered online?

Answer:

Pre-program workshop costs must be covered by the AHO and/or OCO. These can be undertaken online if required.

Post-program workshops can be undertaken in person/online/hybrid. Costs must be covered by the AHO and/or OCO (Section 5.7 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)).

22. Question:

Can you provide more details on the acceptable co-contributions from OCOs? Are there preferred forms of co-contribution (e.g., financial or in-kind)?

Answer:

There is no preferred form for co-contributions. They can be financial or in-kind or both. Please refer to Section 5.7 of the [Round 20 Guidelines](#).

23. Question:

What are the allowable costs related to workshops, training sessions, and community outreach activities conducted by AHO/OCO in the partner country?

Answer:

Please refer to Section 5 of the [Round 20 Guidelines](#) for eligible costs. Community outreach is not a DFAT eligible activity.

24. Question:

Is a detailed budget required as there is no provision in the Smarty Grants application form to put in a detailed budget?

Answer:

No. See question 13.

25. Question:

Does DFAT cover transportation costs of fieldwork equipment?

Answer:

No. This is an ineligible cost (Section 5 of the [Round 20 Guidelines refers](#)).

Fellowship Activities

26. Question:

What flexibility exists for the format and content of Fellowship activities, particularly regarding the mix of in-Australia and partner country activities?

Answer:

In Australia activities must be face to face, for a minimum of 14 calendar days.

Partner Country activities can either be face to face, online or hybrid (a combination of face to face and online).

In Partner Country activities must be undertaken within four months of the completion of in-Australia activities.

27. Question:

Would it be possible for the Fellow to conduct activities in other eligible countries to implement their learnings from Australia there, as well as in their home country? Would this be something that DFAT would contribute funding for, or would activities outside the Fellows' home country be expected to be funded by the AHO?

Answer:

Where the Fellowship is a single country program, DFAT will only cover the costs associated with travel to and from the Fellow's home country.

If however, the Fellowship is a multi-country program, DFAT will cover Fellow's economy airfares to attend in-partner country activities (Section 5.7 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)) and travel to and from the Fellow's home country.

Program Overhead Fee

28. Question:

Can you clarify which program overhead fees are considered eligible for DFAT funding versus those that must be covered by the AHO or OCO as part of their co-contribution?

Answer:

The program overhead fee is for incidental / unforeseen expenses and other Fellowship related administrative costs that may arise during the course of the Fellowship. Please refer to Section 5.4 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#).

29. Question:

There are several references in the guidelines and in the FAQ published August 2024 regarding the program overhead fees, could you please confirm that the intention of the overhead fee is to account for any unforeseen expenses and cover part of administration costs which are Fellowship related as stated in article 5.4 of the Guidelines?

Answer:

Correct.

Overseas Counterpart Organisation Agreement

30. Question:

Are there any standard templates for agreement with OCOs that we can use?

Answer:

No.

31. Question:

If an Australian organisation have an existing collaborative agreement with a potential OCO, would that OCO be eligible?

Answer:

Yes, as long as OCO is not an international arm or branch of the AHO (Section 3.2 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)).

Visa Related Questions

32. Question:

Do the Fellows require to apply for the Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500) even if they are not enrolled in any Universities in Australia? If so, how much it will cost?

Answer:

All Fellows must travel to Australia on a valid student (subclass 500) visa (Foreign Affairs or Defence sector) supported by DFAT.

The Visa fee is waived for Fellows applying for Student (subclass 500) visa (Foreign Affairs or Defence sector) and who attach their Letter of Offer to their visa application.

If Fellow(s) hold other valid Australian visa, please contact Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) for advice. Home Affairs is the Australian agency responsible for visas to enter Australia (Section 10.4 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)).

33. Question:

Do I need to include the Visa fee in the DFAT contributions?

Answer:

No. See question 32.

34. Question:

Do I need to include the Health and character checks for Australia Student Visa?

Answer:

Yes. Please include sufficient budget to cover Fellow's travel to undertake Health and Character checks for Australia Student Visa if requested by Home Affairs (Section 5.3.1 of [Round 20 Guidelines](#)).



Australia Awards

